

Job Report

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Project No. MC-1 Date October 7, 1959.

Project Name: Coastal Fisheries Management Co-ordination.

Period Covered: June 15, 1958 to September 30, 1959. Job No. 1

Coastal Fisheries Management Co-ordination

Objective: To provide co-ordination of the investigative and developmental activities in the Coastal Fisheries Division.

Procedure: The co-ordinator was responsible for conducting his operations so as to produce results of material consequence. He served as co-ordinator and was responsible for furnishing reports on the status and accomplishments of the Coastal Fisheries Division of his own activities. Periodical trips were made to field stations and meetings of biologists were held as needed.

Findings: The new system of reporting on projects seemed to function well enough during the first year. Weekly reports which were summarized in a weekly news letter and monthly reports on job activities were made. Job completion or annual job reports were made on completion of the time duration allotted for the jobs in the Job Descriptions.

Field work and job activities closely followed the outlines of the Project Plans, Specifications and Estimates and the Job Descriptions. This is a great improvement over earlier programs in which field work was rather aimless in direction and purpose. Cost estimates are now more easily made and supplies can be purchased in advance of their need.

Some shortcomings in this year's reports were noted, however. The majority of the reports were late because work on them was slow in starting. Some reports are still outstanding at the time of this writing. It is believed that after the experience of compiling the field data and writing these reports the preparation of the reports for next year will begin earlier. A deadline set in the job description should be closely observed.

It was found that only one area had been completely mapped with the location of live and exposed oyster reefs shown in relation to the State Land Tracts. This should be completed in all areas during the next project year.

It was also noted that more emphasis should be made on the shrimp study program. More information on all phases of shrimp abundance is sorely needed. Especially nursery area data which can support an intelligent prediction on future harvests are lacking. A more intensified study of post larval forms and the abundance and location of juvenile shrimp in the nursery grounds should be undertaken immediately. Additional information is needed on seasonal abundance of near shore Gulf populations.

From the amount of work done in the past, the amount of time currently spent in the program, and from the information thus far received, it seems

likely that too much emphasis is placed on the importance of fish tagging. Life history and growth rate data on the concerned species of fish are more adequate than in some field of study in which data are insufficient and badly needed.

Although the present project study in Area M-1 is not yet complete, it can be seen from the weekly and monthly reports that the productivity of the area is curtailed by its physical size and hydrographic conditions. Because of the limited white shrimp fishery in the Texas half constitutes the sole fishery of Sabine Lake it is felt that this area is not of sufficient value to require the full time attention of a biologist. It is recommended that Area M-1 and M-3 (Lower Galveston Bay) be combined. Periodical checks of Sabine Lake should suffice, and the field station at Port Arthur thus be closed.

Prepared by Terrance R. Leary

Approved by

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Assistant Director

Date Approved

9 October 1959